Meeting of Indian ocean rim countries

1845. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether holding of meeting of Indian Ocean Rim Countries was discussed with the Prime Minister of Mauritius during Prime Minister's recent to visit that country; and

(b) if so, the venue, date and agenda of the proposed meeting and the names of the countries attending the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) The meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Countries came up for discussion during PM's visit to Mauritius. Since then, a Ministerial Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), involving its fourteen members, viz., Australia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Singapore, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Tanzania and Yemen has been held in Mauritius from March 5-7, 1997. India was represented by the External Affairs Minister. The substantive agenda of the Ministerial Meeting included the adoption of the IOR-ARC Charter, consideration of the Work Programme, consideration of criteria and guidelines for inclusion of new projects in the Work Programme, and deliberations regarding the coordination mechanism and 'future administrative arrangements for IOR-ARC.

कश्मीर नीति में परिवर्तन

1846. **श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी** : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या भारत सरकार ने भारत-पाक संबंधों को सामान्य बनाने के मार्ग की सबसे बड़ी बाधा-कश्मीर समस्या के प्रति अपनी नीति में कुछ परिवर्तन किया है अथवा करने का विचार रखती है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(ग) सेवा-निवृत फील्डमार्शल मानेकशा द्वारा हाल ही में इस संबंध में दिये गये वक्तव्य के प्रति सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

विदेश मंत्री (**श्री इन्द्र कुमार गुजराल**) : (क) से (ग) सरकार की सुसंगत नीति यह है कि सम्पूर्ण जम्मू और कश्मीर भारत संघ का एक अभिन्न भागग है। जिस मसले को सुलझाया जाना बाकी है वह पाकिस्तान के अवैध और बलपूर्वक हथियाए गए जम्मू और कश्मीर राज्य के क्षेत्र को खाली कराया जाना है। भारत, सभी भारत-पाक मसलों को शिमला समझौते के अन्तर्गत सुलझाने के लिए वचनबद्ध है।

German Foreign Minister's suggestion to join the CTBT

1847. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the German Foreign Minister, Mr. Klaus Kinkel during his recent visit to India, called upon India to join the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;

(b) if so, in what precise terms this suggestion was made; whether it linked with any other assurance for help or assistance; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Dr. Kinkel conveyed that it would be desirable if India signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). However, he appreeiated India's position on the Treaty. His view point was not linked with any assurance for help or assistance.

(c) External Affairs Minister categorically conveyed to the German Foreign Minister that India would not now or later sign the CTBT and the NPT in their present form. India's stand on the CTBT has been principled and consistent.